United Nations E/AC.51/2016/L.4/Add.27

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
24 June 2016

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-sixth session
31 May-24 June 2016
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

1. At its 19th meeting, on 10 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 7)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support and appreciation were expressed for the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and for the development pillar as a whole. Reference was made to important milestones reached in the course of the previous year, in particular the agreement on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Delegations welcomed the inclusion of the two Agendas into the proposed strategic framework,

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and information was sought as to how the Department planned to reorient its activities and resources to support Member States in implementing the related activities. Taking into consideration complementarities and synergies between the various areas of work of the Department, information was sought on the potential to free up capacity to devote more attention to supporting Member States in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The view was expressed that the implementation of the two Agendas needed to take into account uncompleted commitments, including the Millennium Development Goals, and that development was an ongoing process.

5. The role of the regional commissions was underlined, given their clear intermediary role in the promotion of development, and information was sought on the nature of coordination between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional commissions, particularly with regard to a coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Likewise, emphasis was placed on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, including the preparation of national development plans.

6. Concern was expressed by a delegation at the seemingly unequal treatment of the activities related to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda compared with that of the 2030 Agenda, and it was emphasized that both should be reflected throughout the programme. While recognizing common elements between the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, a delegation highlighted that the former was an independent mandate and that, therefore, the strategic framework should clearly indicate the activities that the Secretariat intended to undertake for the two Agendas. In that respect, the suggestion was made to have a specific chapter on follow-up activities to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Concern was also expressed at the seeming overemphasis on Sustainable Development Goal 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and emphasis was made on the fundamental principle of the Agenda that no one Goal had supremacy over the other.

7. Under subprogramme 1, Economic and Social Council support and coordination, a questions was raised concerning the use of the term "global development emergencies and crises", particularly since that concept was not part of the 2030 Agenda. While recognizing that post-conflict peacebuilding formed part of Sustainable Development Goal 16, information was sought on the specific Council mandates relating to the issue.

8. Under subprogramme 3, Sustainable development, it was noted that the programme assigned the Secretariat a role in producing the *Global Sustainable Development Report*. In that connection, a question was raised as to whether the mandate for the Secretariat to carry out that output was still valid, particularly in view of plans by the Economic and Social Council to engage a group of independent experts to carry out a study leading to a report. Information was also sought on expected accomplishment (b), in particular how the Department would provide support to Member States.

9. Several clarifications were sought regarding subprogramme 4, Statistics, including (a) why — in the effort to avoid duplication of efforts — there was no mention of coordination or cooperation with other international organizations that

either produced or disseminated statistics; (b) the definition of the word "race" in paragraph 7.10 (d) of the strategy; and (c) the reason for having multiple levels of disaggregation, including what the mandate was and what need it addressed.

10. Concern was expressed at changes made to subprogramme 4, with the argument that several important elements that had been included in the previous formulation had been deleted. While recognizing the urge to "aim higher", a delegation cautioned against changing targets if previous goals had not yet been achieved. Concern was also expressed at the part of the strategy set out in paragraph 7.10 (b), namely that the Department would assist countries in building and managing sustainable national statistical systems with "appropriate governance structures". It was stressed that this went beyond the mandate of the Statistics Division, as it was for Member States to assess if their governance structure was adequate, and the Division ought to provide assistance to all States requesting it.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in line with established procedures.**

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 7.3

In the second sentence, replace "assistance in capacity development to support the implementation of global conference outcomes at the country level" with "assistance in capacity development to support, as requested, the implementation of global conference outcomes at the country level".

Subprogramme 1
Economic and Social Council support and coordination

Objective of the Organization

At the end of the objective of the Organization, insert "and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of expected accomplishment (a), insert ", including through the high-level political forum on sustainable development".

At the end of expected accomplishment (b), insert "and the outcomes of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development".

Indicators of achievement

Add two new indicators of achievement, reading:

"(a) (iv) Increased percentage of national focal points involved in United Nations country-level work participating in the operational activities segment"

"(a) (v) Increase in the number of stakeholders participating in the Development Cooperation Forum"

Add three new indicators of achievement, reading:

"(b) (vi) All subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council take action in response to its policy coordination initiatives and documents, where appropriate"

"(b) (vii) Increase in the number of subsidiary bodies and United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies that provide recommendations and technical guidance on how the Economic and Social Council can integrate their perspectives into the larger picture of sustainable development"

"(b) (viii) Increase in the number of United Nations system organizations preparing an action plan for the implementation of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council guidance on operational activities for development and developing strategic plans according to the General Assembly quadrennial comprehensive policy review"

Replace indicator of achievement (c) (i) with "Increase in the number of recommendations and decisions of the Economic and Social Council on long-term development situations of post-conflict countries".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.7

In subparagraph (a), after "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", insert "and the outcomes of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development".

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following:

"(b) Promoting policy coherence and effectiveness among the development activities of different development actors and strengthening the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations, and contributing to enhanced monitoring and accountability with respect to development cooperation commitments, through the Development Cooperation Forum;"

Replace subparagraph (i) with the following:

"(i) Promoting a comprehensive and integrated approach to the follow-up to and implementation of the major United Nations conferences and summits, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in the work of the

high-level political forum and the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, by supporting the Council's oversight and coordination role over the work of its subsidiary bodies and its functional commissions;"

Delete subparagraph (j).

Renumber the following subparagraph.

Subprogramme 2
Social policy and development

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "To strengthen international cooperation in the area of social development and promote greater social inclusion and well-being for all".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with "Increased knowledge of and acquired skills for implementing social policies at the national and community levels with a view to strengthening the capacity of Member States in this regard".

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with "Increased awareness by Governments, civil society, the United Nations system and the private sector of social development analysis".

Indicators of achievement

Insert new indicator of achievement (b) (i), reading "Increase in the number of national personnel trained to implement social policies at the national and community levels and the number of persons declaring intent to use the knowledge and skills acquired in their work".

Number the existing indicator as (b) (ii).

Insert two new indicators of achievement, reading:

"(c) (iii) Increase in the number of visits to and downloads from the website of the Division for Social Policy and Development to obtain United Nations research and analysis information"

"(c) (iv) Increase in the number of citations of the two flagship reports of the Division in major international newspapers and academic journals, as well as in publications of other entities of the United Nations system"

Strategy

Paragraph 7.8

In subparagraph (b), after "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,", add "the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,".

Add a new subparagraph (f), reading:

"(f) Facilitating deliberations and actions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly; facilitating agreements on policy recommendations for eradicating poverty, generating employment, reducing inequality and promoting social integration; and directing increased attention to the social pillar of sustainable development."

Subprogramme 3
Sustainable development

Objective of the Organization

At the end of the objective of the Organization, insert ", and the commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with "Effective review of an agreement by Member States on actions to advance the implementation of agreed outcomes of major United Nations conferences on sustainable development, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development".

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with "Enhanced capacity of developing countries, including small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to formulate and implement strategies, policies, frameworks and programmes in support of sustainable development, with a special focus on gender equality and empowerment of women".

Add expected accomplishment (d), reading "Increased accessibility of information, understanding and knowledge of policy options, practical measures and concrete actions needed for the adoption and implementation of sustainable development at the local, national, regional and international levels".

Indicators of achievement

Insert new indicator of achievement (c) (ii), reading "Increased percentage of participants from Member States providing positive feedback on the support provided by the Secretariat".

Insert two new indicators of achievement, reading:

"(d) (i) Increase in the number of inputs by Member States into databases on partnerships, voluntary commitments, best practices and lessons learned"

"(d) (ii) Increase in the number of visits to and downloads from the website of the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform and its related social media forums to obtain information, documentation and publications"

Strategy

Paragraph 7.9

In subparagraph (a), after "Sustainable Development Goals," insert "the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,".

In subparagraph (b), after "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", insert "and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda".

In subparagraph (f), replace "culminating in" with "aimed at supporting the elaboration of".

Subprogramme 4
Statistics

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "To advance the global statistical and geospatial information system in order to produce high-quality, easily accessible comparable national statistics and geospatial information systems for policymakers and other users at the national and international levels".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of expected accomplishment (b), insert "including by coordinating with national statistical entities of Member States".

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with "Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields, to produce high-quality data, including data disaggregated by sex, for policymakers and the public in general".

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator of achievement (a) (i), insert "high-level forums, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars".

Replace indicator of achievement (c) (ii) with "Increase in the number of countries that have received guidelines and capacity development support for developing and implementing sustainable national statistical systems".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.10

Replace subparagraph (g) with the following:

"(g) Coordinating international statistical activities by cooperating with other international organizations to enhance the coordinated system of international statistical work, including the development of standards and methods, the provision of technical support services

and the dissemination of consistent, high-quality data and indicators; and, in particular, enhancing coherence in the statistical data work of the entire United Nations system."

Subprogramme 5
Population

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "To strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the international development agenda".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with "Effectively facilitate review by Member States and other stakeholders of progress made in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of relevant instruments of the United Nations development agenda, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.11

At the end of subparagraph (d), insert ", including by coordinating with national statistical entities of Member States".

Subprogramme 6
Development policy and analysis

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "To facilitate the reaching of intergovernmental agreement on the economic policies and actions necessary at the national and international levels to improve long-term development prospects by strengthening the international debate on new and emerging economic development issues and challenges and on the world economic situation".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.12

In subparagraph (a), after "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", insert "and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,".

Replace subparagraph (f) with the following:

"(f) Analysing macroeconomic policies for development; providing assistance to developing countries in strengthening their capacity to apply instruments for policy analysis and monitoring systems in support of their national development strategies aimed at achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the United

Nations development agenda beyond 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with adequate consideration given to promoting gender equality; and supporting the integrated implementation framework through monitoring of the commitments made in support of the internationally agreed development goals by Member States and other international stakeholders;"

Subprogramme 7
Public administration and development management

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "To foster effective, efficient, transparent, accountable, innovative and citizen-centred public governance, administration and services for sustainable development".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with "Increased capacities of Member States for the implementation of policies and programmes in public administration".

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with "Increased capacities of Member States for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with a focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women in public policy".

Subprogramme 9
Financing for development

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective of the Organization with "Sustained follow-up and review of the implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the delivery of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.15

Insert new subparagraph (g), reading:

"(g) Providing secretariat support for the work of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up".

Legislative mandates

Commission on Population and Development resolutions

Add "2016/1 Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".